

A collector? Join the club

By Roger Boye

ATTENDANCE at coin club meetings and coin shows is an excellent way to learn about numismatics and to meet others who share an interest in the hobby.

Illinois has more than 150 clubs, many of which are located in the Chicago area. Most of the clubs conduct monthly meetings, which often include speakers, coin displays, and a coin bourse [dealers present to buy and sell coins].

Guests are welcome at the meetings of most coin clubs, which could provide an opportunity for the novice collector to have an old coin appraised by collectors or dealers.

An 80-page booklet listing the names and addresses of about 3,000 coin clubs in the United States [including Illinois clubs] can be obtained for \$1 from Numismatic News, a weekly coin publication [Iola, Wis. 54945].

The American Numismatic Association has at least temporarily discontinued publication of its directory of coin clubs, but has supplied information for the Numismatic News listing. Another general weekly numismatic publication, *Coin World* [Sidney, Ohio 45365], will aid persons who write with inquiries about the location of a club nearest a given area.

ONE OF Illinois' largest coin conventions will be held

Friday, Saturday, and next Sunday at Decatur, sponsored by the Illinois Numismatic Association. Some 125 dealers from around the country will attend this 14th annual convention.

Included in the convention at the Holiday Inn will be exhibits and an educational program. It was also held in Decatur in 1972, and more than 5,000 people attended at the time.

The Illinois association is affiliated with the American Numismatic Association, a national organization of 30,000 members chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1893.

Current president of the Illinois association is Jack Huggins of Belleville.